

while swallowing a camel. The point I am making is this. What we're talking about is something that will benefit people who cannot help themselves through no fault of their own. The economy, nationally and in this state, has gone to Hades in a hand basket, to use another old expression, and because people are stressed to such an extent, it is essential that these offices be kept open and that we act in an expeditious fashion on this bill. But the final clincher, I think, could be found if we look at the industry that Senator Pirsch works for. If you would go several years ago and look at a person's telephone bill, it was smaller then than what it is now and the phone companies continue to make profit. So what do they do? They come to the Legislature, marshal their forces, ramrod a bill through that takes away a type of regulation that will allow them to make even more money and yet nobody who is a participant with that industry is upset about the increase in profit that these people will make even at the possible expense of denying essential telephone service to those who need it as a necessity. So, if we put both things on this scale of justice, we will see that the scale ought to tip in favor of those who need the help that this bill will provide rather than the powerful, profit-making industry that Senator Pirsch works for, yet that was not seen as a bad thing to do. We have in her argument a leap that should not occur in logic because her argument is not valid. I think we ought to vote to suspend the rules, what she said is really irrelevant to the issue and then go ahead and give a favorable vote to the bill itself.

PRESIDENT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm sure that some of the folks here will remember that I voted against this measure the other day and even though my name was on the bill for consideration of this change. I then checked, and I guess before I say what I have found out when I checked in my area, I would just like to respond a little bit to Senator Pirsch's comments regarding the numbers of dollars that are being spent on services and I would like to remind her and all the other folks in here, those are mandated services. Those services have to be provided and so we must have staff out there, we must have adequate facilities in order to do those things that we have to do as a state. But I took the time to check with staff in the central Nebraska area and found that in the area that I am discussing, in the Hastings, Red Cloud and the surrounding area, they would take away seven staff, they would replace six staff and then in addition to that...